

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 /079 W
----- 047736

R 121130Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 928

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4763

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, BX, SN, UK, MY

SUBJ: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN BRUNEI

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR BRUNEI AFFAIRS (BOLDT) TOLD US AUGUST 12 THAT APPROX 1,000 SINGAPOREAN TROOPS WILL BEGIN MILITARY EXERCISES IN BRUNEI AT END OF AUGUST. EXERCISES WILL INVOLVE LAND JUNGLE WARFARE AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT PRACTICE. HMG HAS NOT YET NOTIFIED GOM OF THESE EXERCISES, AS HAS BEEN ITS PAST PRACTICE, BECAUSE OF SHORT LEAD TIME INVOLVED IN PLANNING. BOLDT SAID SINGAPORE-BRUNEI EXERCISES WERE ARRANGED DIRECTLY BY GOS WITH BRUNEI GOVERNMENT AND HMG WAS NOT INFORMED UNTIL PLANNING WAS IN ADVANCED STAGES.

2. BOLDT ALSO VOLUNTEERED THAT BRUNEI GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED TO PAY ALL EXPENSES FOR CONSTRUCTION AND STAFFING OF JUNGLE WARFARE CENTER WHICH WILL BE USED BY ROYAL BRUNEI REGIMENT AND SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES. HE SAID HMG HAS BEEN
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ASKED TO SECOND HIGHRANKING OFFICER AS JUNGLE WARFARE

CENTER COMMANDER AND TO PROVIDE OTHER PERSONNEL. BOLDT CLAIMED HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM OTHER COMMONWEALTH NATIONS (E.G., NEW ZEALAND) WOULD BE ATTACHED TO CENTER AS INSTRUCTORS.

3. BOLDT CONTINUED THAT HMG DOES NOT WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN SINGAPORE TRAINING IN BRUNEI NOR IN JUNGLE WARFARE CENTER. HMG IS ALSO VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT ITS RELATIONS WITH GOM AND CLEARLY DOES NOT WANT TO BE CAUGHT IN MIDDLE OF MALAYSIAN-BRUNEI DISPUTE OR IN THREE-CORNER IMBROGLIO WITH SINGAPORE.
DILLON

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Message Attributes

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